

a very limited extent. I therefore undertook to canvass the whole country in a systematic manner by personal visits. My first object was to obtain the places of residence of all persons of the Loomis name, that is, to take a census of all persons of that name. In prosecuting this object I encountered very great difficulties. I examined every Directory of City, County or State I could find, and of these there is a very large collection in the State Library at Albany. I also examined Business Directories, Catalogues of the Clergymen of the various religious denominations, Catalogues of Lawyers and Physicians, and Catalogues of names of every description for any part of the United States. I also spent considerable time in examining County Maps. For most of the older States large County Maps have been published, giving the names of the occupants of every farm in the county. I studied many of these maps with great care, and copied all the Loomis names which they contained. By these different means I obtained very extensive lists of names of persons to be visited.

But after the most diligent use of all the means of information which I have indicated, I found there were still extensive districts almost entirely unexplored. This deficiency for all the States except New England, I supplied in the following manner. In New York, Pennsylvania, and generally throughout the Western States, there is kept at the county seat of each county the tax list for each of the towns of that county. These lists show the name of every person in the county who pays any State or County tax, however small. They therefore show (with but few exceptions) the names of all the male residents of the county who are over 21 years of age. This then has been my ultimate reliance for information in all the States except New England, and the other means of information which I have indicated have generally been simply auxiliary. Having obtained a list of all the Loomis names in a county I commence the canvass. As the majority of the persons to be visited reside at a distance from any railroad, (often 10, 15 or 20 miles,) I take a private conveyance, and after an early breakfast, start upon my explorations. I mark out a circuit as extensive as I think I can complete during the day and return to my hotel at evening. In these tramps, generally over hills, sometimes through sand-beds, and at other times through mud-holes, I